

Office rules, and do not introduce new matter into the application.

The underlying PCT application PCT/DE98/03771 includes an International Search Report dated May 18, 1999. An English translation of the Search Report is provided herewith.

The underlying PCT application also includes an International Preliminary Examination Report ("IPER"), dated April 7, 2000. An English translation of the IPER and the annex thereto is included herewith.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 7/14/00

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